

4.9.1 Introduction

Recreational open spaces are facilities for urban dwellers to provide refreshment associated with nature to keep away them from haphazard condition of urban life. It is an essential element in context of urban element. Botanical garden, Boishakhi Chottar, Shaheb Park, Bipin Park, Aam Bagan and River Side are the most popular places for recreational purposes to the inhabitants of Mymensingh. People of Mymensingh seem to visit these places with their friends and family.

4.9.2 Methodology

Locations of recreational sites have been identified with the help of already prepared physical feature map of that area. The locations of those sites have shown in Map 1 placed in Annex section. Required information for the purpose of this study have collected through pre-structured questionnaire survey.

The visitors of those recreational spots were targeted as potential sources of information and therefore, questionnaire survey were conducted. The survey has been conducted at different periods of a day covering morning, afternoon, evening and night. The reason for such was to draw the information of different functional users of varying timespan.

4.9.3 Survey Findings

4.9.3.1 Nature of Visit

Visitors of different age ranging from teenage to elder come to the recreational open spaces in Mymensingh. Most of the visitors visit those recreational open spaces for passing their leisure. Other purposes are hanging out with friends and couples and; also exercise. A few frequency of picnic has been found.

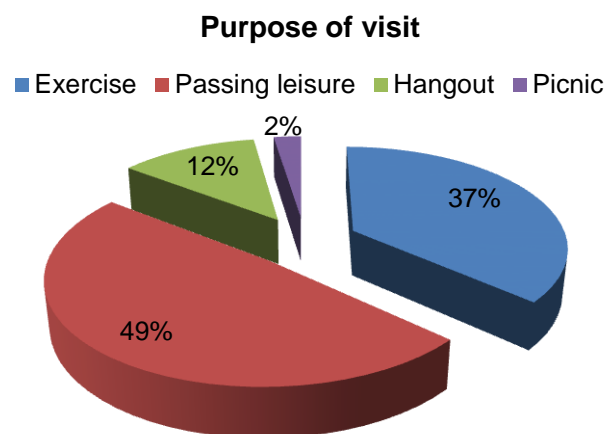


Figure 1: Purpose of visit in recreational open spaces

Figure 1 shows the comparative scenario of purposes to visit the surveyed recreational open spaces. There around 50% are found to come just for passing their leisure time. On the other hand the proportion of exercise related visit is only 37%. Their frequency of visiting the recreational open spaces are very irregular. They are not used to come regularly. Most of the users visit those open places on weekly basis.

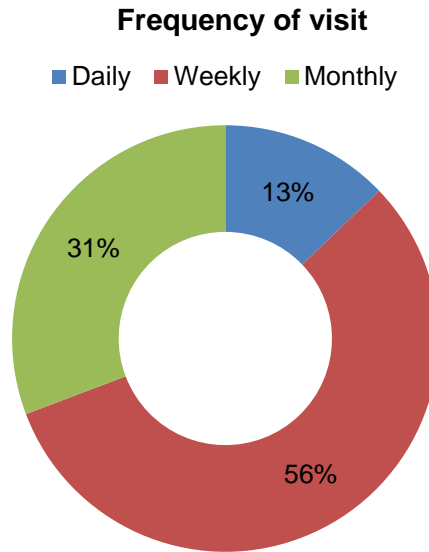


Figure 2: Frequency of visit overview (Source: Field Survey, 2013)

The most (56%) of total visitors come weekly. Weekly frequency of visit varies and ranging from two days to 4 days in a week. 31% of total visitors visit recreational open spaces monthly. Daily visitors are very few in comparison to other categories. The above Figure 2 shoes a comparison of the visiting frequencies for those recreational sites.

Figure 3 shows that most visitors (55%) come around recreational open spaces at evening time. On the other hand, during morning and evening almost similar number of visitors visit there. At night, none of the respondents have found to make a visit to those sites.

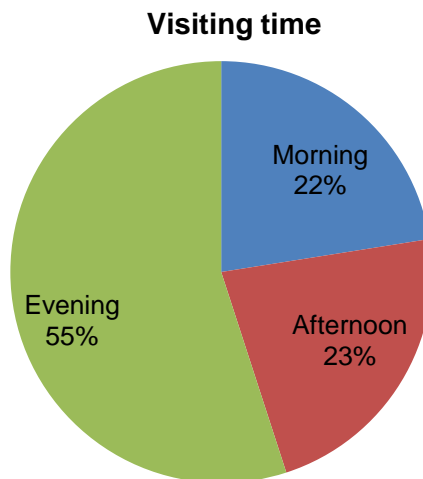


Figure 3: Percentage of visitors in different time periods (Source: Field Survey, 2013)

4.9.3.2 Associate Problems

In most cases, identified problem associated with recreational open space is beggary. Beggars seem a lot in number in open spaces of Mymensingh. This causes disturbance on passing time at parks. 76% of total visitors says beggary is a matter of disturbance during passing leisure time in open spaces. Larceny and eve teasing are also significant problems for visitors and; 51% and 46% of total visitors commented these as

problems in recreational open spaces. In case of Drug, hijacking and sexual harassment 27%, 37% and 29% of total surveyed visitors find these as problems in recreational open spaces respectively.

4.9.3.3 Available Facilities

Not a single park is completed with common facilities for visitors. Most of the cases, parking facility is absent; besides facilities like snacks and public toilet are also not served by the authority. There are a few parks arranging bench. Walkway is common in every recreational open space of Mymensingh.

4.9.3.4 Level of Satisfaction

Level of satisfaction in terms of available facility, social condition and; safety and security has been identified on the basis of visitor's opinion. Most of the visitor's (36%) are somewhat or moderately satisfied from the available facilities in those recreational open spaces. Some other 33% and 5% of total visitors are highly and very highly satisfied respectively. Total 10% of the visitor's answered for low satisfaction level. Another 16% have opinioned the level of satisfaction as very low (see Figure 4).

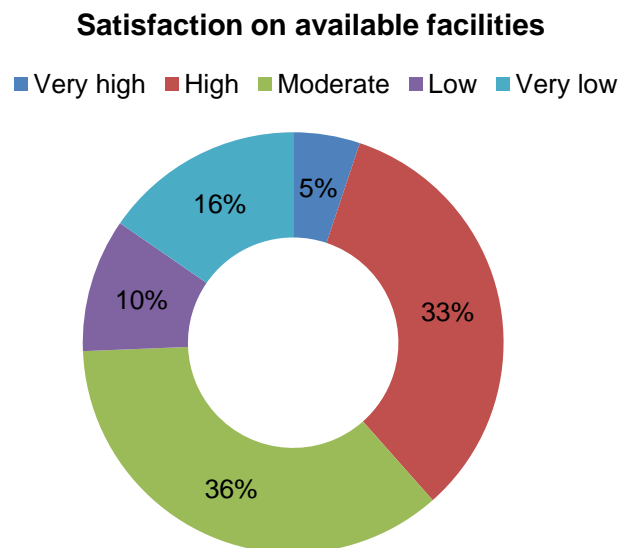


Figure 4: Level of satisfaction of visitors on available facilities (Source: Field Survey, 2013)

In case of satisfaction on social condition, most of the visitors' satisfaction level is poor out of which 44% opinioned as very low and other 26% as low. Only 5% of total visitors answered their satisfaction level as very high. The following Figure 5 shows the details of satisfactions status regarding social condition of the recreational open spaces.

Satisfaction on social condition

■ Very high ■ High ■ Moderate ■ Low ■ Very low

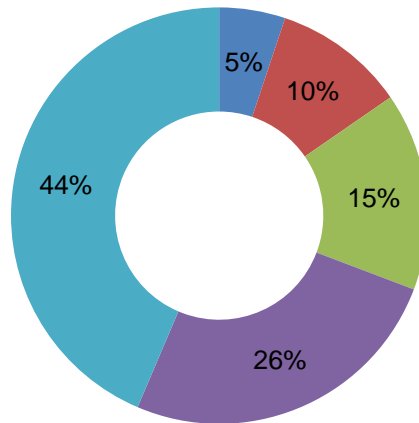


Figure 5: Level of satisfaction of visitors on social condition (Source: Field Survey, 2013)

Another important safety and security aspects of recreational spaces are found overall satisfactory. There, some 36% of total visitors are highly satisfied with safety and security status of recreational open space in Mymensingh. Another 26% of total visitors have found as moderately satisfies with the safety and security. A significant number of visitors' (total 35%) are poorly satisfied in the current situation. There 20% and 15% of total visitors have claimed the safety and security issues as low and very low respectively. The following Figure 6 has illustrated the complete scenario on this regard.

Satisfaction on safety and security

■ Very high ■ High ■ Moderate ■ Low ■ Very low

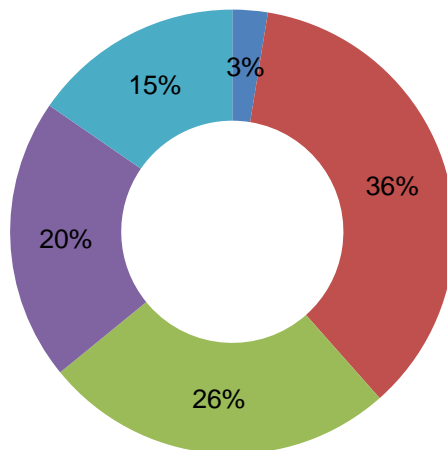


Figure 6: Level of satisfaction on safety and security (Source: Field Survey, 2013)

4.9.4 Remarks

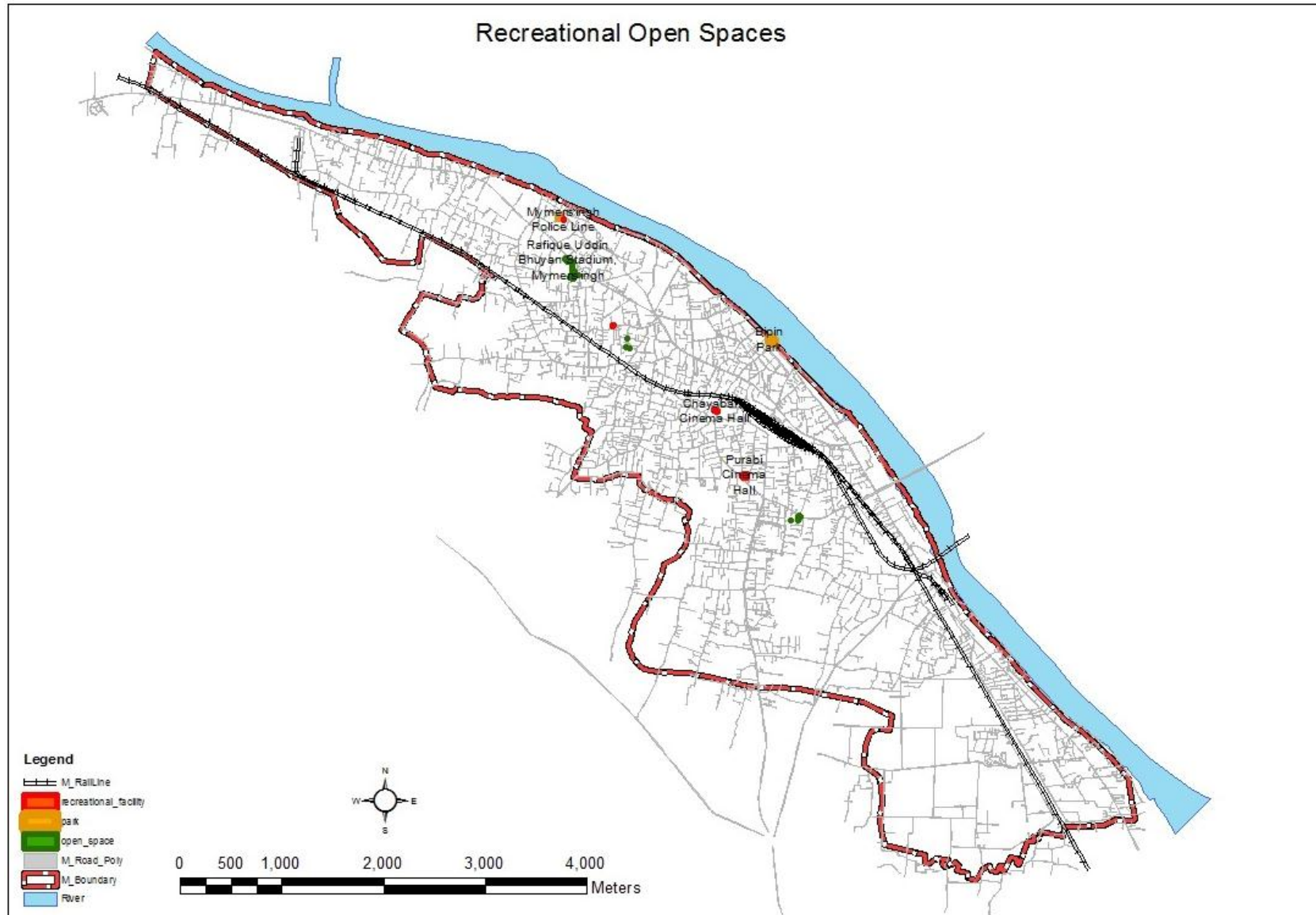
Recreation open spaces are not well structured and well decorated as to subject of attraction for visitors. Besides lacking in common facilities such as parking, restaurant, public toilet etc. make visitors a matter of uncomforted to visit these places. Maintenance and safety are on dissatisfaction level at recreational open spaces in Mymensingh.

4.9.5 Conclusion

Recreational open spaces can be a place of possibility in terms of economic and social activities by associating physical or structural decoration with natural environment. As Brahmaputra River is crossed by the side of Mymensingh town covering long area, there is possibility to make such place visitors friendly with profitable recreational site.

Annex

- a. Location map of recreational open spaces



Map 1: Location map of available recreational open spaces within Mymensingh municipal area